



December 2005

2006 WIL-O-WAY KEY CARD

Don't forget to renew your Wil-O-Way Key Card membership. The 2006 application is attached.



SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATES

By Karyl Richson
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Milwaukee

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE NEW MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM

On November 15, Medicare beneficiaries across the nation began signing up for one of the many plans offered under the new Medicare Prescription Drug Program. The following questions and answers address some basic issues that all Medicare beneficiaries should be aware of as they consider their choices.

What is Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage?

Medicare prescription drug coverage is insurance provided by private companies, approved by Medicare, called Prescription Drug Providers (PDPs). Starting January 1, 2006, new Medicare prescription drug coverage will be available to everyone with Medicare. This drug coverage may help lower your prescription drug costs and help protect against higher costs in the future.

Can I get extra help to pay for one of the prescription drug plans?

If you have limited income and resources, you may qualify for extra help. The amount of extra help depends on your income and resources. If you qualify for the extra help, you still will need to join a plan to get drug coverage. If you apply and qualify for the extra help but don't join a plan, Medicare will enroll you in one by May 15, 2006, to make sure you get this important coverage.

How do I know if I qualify for extra help?

You may get a letter from Medicare saying that you automatically qualify for extra help and don't have to fill out the application from Social Security. If you didn't automatically qualify, Social Security sent people with

certain incomes an application for this extra help. Basically, you may qualify if your income is less than \$14,355 for an individual or \$19,245 for a married couple living together, and your resources are less than \$11,500 for an individual or \$23,000 if you are married and living with your spouse. If you didn't get -- or did not complete -- an application but think you may qualify, call 1-800-772-1213 or visit www.socialsecurity.gov on the web. After you complete the *Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs*, Social Security will mail you a letter telling you if you qualify for extra help.

If I am not certain whether or not I qualify, should I apply for extra help?

Yes, because there is no risk or cost to apply. And, if you qualify, you will get extra help paying for the annual deductible, premiums and co-payments for Medicare prescription drug coverage. This application may be completed before you have decided to participate in the Medicare Prescription Drug Program, and if you decide later that you do not want to participate, you may opt out at that time.

Once I choose a prescription drug plan, how do I pay for the coverage? Can it be deducted from my Social Security retirement check?

In general, there are three ways you can pay your Medicare drug plan premiums:

1. You can give permission to the PDP that offers the Medicare drug plan you choose to deduct the premium automatically from your bank account; or
2. You can have your premium deducted every month from your Social Security benefits, similar to your premiums for Medicare Part B; or
3. You can pay the premium for your prescription drug plan directly by mailing the PDP a check or money order each month.

Where can I get more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage?

For more information, read the "*Medicare & You 2006 Handbook*" mailed to you in October 2005. It will list the specific plans available in your area. If you need further help, visit www.medicare.gov on the web or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048. Have your Medicare card, a list of drugs you use and the name of the pharmacy you use ready when you call.



Handi-NEWS & NOTES



December 2005

EARNED INCOME CREDIT MAY MEAN MONEY FOR YOU!

Maybe you don't file a federal income tax return, because you don't make enough money. But, you may be missing out on the Earned Income Credit (EIC). Disabilities often prevent people from working as much as they would like. An individual with a disability can file to get EIC even if they won't owe any tax.

Individuals who will earn less than \$11,750 in 2005 may be entitled to Earned Income Credit. What this means is that if an individual with a disability lives alone or in supported living and has earned income (wages, but not including Social Security benefits or SSI) of less than \$11,750, that person may be eligible for a refund of up to \$399. This is true even if no income tax is withheld on Form W-2, the wage statement from the employer.

Adults between ages 25 and 64 who are not claimed as dependents or for EIC purposes on another tax return can file their own return, often a Form 1040EZ, and receive a check of up to \$399 that does not count as an asset or income for SSI purposes. If the individual is married the income limit for a couple without children in their home is \$13,750.

In addition, if the person was eligible in previous years and did not file returns to claim the EIC, they can still file for 2002, 2003, and 2004, as well as 2005. There is no penalty for filing late if the government owes you money, but usually the return claiming the refund needs to be filed within three years of the original due date.

If you have a disabled child living in your home, your family may qualify for Earned Income Credit if you, as the parent, work. If you are a parent whose child with a disability lives with you and your household income is less than \$31,030 (\$33,030 if

married filing jointly), you may be eligible for EIC of up to \$2,662 for 2005. If you also have other children living with you and your 2005 income will be less than \$35,263 (\$37,263 if married), you may be eligible for EIC of up to \$4,400. Disabled children can qualify you for EIC regardless of age. Other children must be under 19 or under 24 and a fulltime student.

More information about the EIC rules is available in Publication 596, *Earned Income Credit*. It contains eligibility criteria and instructions for claiming the tax credit. Copies of the publication are available in English and Spanish. The publication and necessary forms can be found on the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

NHU ACCESS TECH PROGRAM – Offering Refurbished Macintosh Power PCs

New Horizons Un-Limited (NHU), via our Access Technology Computer Redistribution Program, has available a number of Macintosh Computers. The Power PCs feature Sonnet G4 500 MHz processors, 6 GB Hard Drives, 256 MB of Memory, CD ROM Drives, built in Network Interface Cards (for Cable and DSL Internet service), Sound Cards, and external Zip Drives. They also come loaded with OS X and Neo Office. For those interested in dial-up Internet service, modems can be installed for a small charge.

Macintosh computers are known for their user-friendly design and are perfect for those just getting started on a computer. These MACs would also be perfect for non-profit organizations wishing to set up a computer lab for their consumers with disabilities.

Our program is open to Southeastern Wisconsin residents with disabilities and non-profit organizations. To learn how you can apply for these Macintosh computers, please contact NHU at (414) 299-0124.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY OFFICE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Telephone: 414-278-3932 (VOICE); 414-278-3937 (TDD); 414-278-3939 (FAX)

COURTHOUSE, 901 N. 9TH STREET, ROOM 307-B • MILWAUKEE, WI 53233
technikowski@milwcnty.com www.milwaukee.gov



Handi-NEWS & NOTES



December 2005

HAPPENINGS IN THE PARKS!

Wehr Nature Center

Christmas Bird Count

December 17th, 8am - Noon



This annual bird count of wintering bird species and their abundance is held throughout the country and provides information on long-term trends in our avian fauna. Join us for the morning and warm up with a chili potluck lunch, during which we'll share results. Participants may continue the count for the afternoon. Arm-chair participants may choose simply to watch their feeders at home.

Little Wonders for Twos - 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Little Wonders for Threes - 11:00 - Noon
December 5

All children must be accompanied by an adult.
Please, no non-participating siblings.
Pre-registration required.
Fee: \$7.00/Child, \$5.00/Friends of Wehr

Toddlers and their parent will enjoy learning about a different topic of nature each month.

Nature Nauts

Dec. 11 & 12

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Sundays)
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. (Mondays)

Ages: 4 - 6, with an adult

Fee: \$5.00/child, \$4.00/Friend of Wehr
Pre-registration required.

Tots and parents are invited to join the naturalist for special topics, crafts and outdoor activities in this series of programs for the younger set.

Call 414-425-8550 for Registration Deadlines, Program Details and Fee Information

Boerner Botanical Gardens

Boerner Holiday Plant Sale

Thursday, December 1, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Visitors can choose from amaryllis, lush garlands, gorgeous wreaths and brilliant poinsettias for the holidays at the Boerner Holiday Plant Sale. The sale is in the Atrium of the Education & Visitor Center and will run

through the month of December – until supplies run out. Proceeds from the sales will benefit the Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens.

Create a Winter Container*

Thursday, December 1, 10:00 am

Featured Instructor - Heidi Hornung, Shady Lane Greenhouses

\$42/\$37 members

Create a container garden to brighten your home that will extend through the winter. Hands-on planting plus ideas for containers to brighten any corner of your home, whether it's large or small. Pre-registration is required, and class size is limited. Attendees should bring gloves and pruners, all other supplies are provided.

Williamsburg Decorating / Holiday Wreath Making
Saturday, December 3, 10:00 am

Featured Instructor – David J. Frank Landscape Contracting Inc.

\$45/\$40 members

The holidays are a wonderful time for entertaining. Fresh and dried plant materials are used separately or are combined in both traditional and more contemporary ways to help you create a Williamsburg holiday at home. Learn how to incorporate the concept of Williamsburg decorating into your holiday décor and make a wreath for the holidays.

Friends Gift Shop Shopping Spree with Ginger Tea
Saturday, December 10, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Enjoy a cup of tea while strolling through our gift shop looking for the perfect gift for your special someone. Unique holiday gifts, jewelry and gardening supplies are just a few of the items you will see.

One-Stroke Painting – Holiday Wine Glasses
Saturday, December 10, 10:00 am

\$40/\$35 members

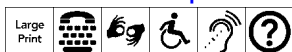
Featured Instructor – Trina Eve, Certified One Stroke instructor

One stroke painting is an innovative style of decorative painting that allows for blending, shading and highlighting all in one stroke. Paint a set of wine glasses for your collection or a unique gift for the Holidays. Cost of class includes painting supplies, attendees will provide wine glasses of their choice.

Dates and topics may change, please call 414-525-5675 to confirm and pre-register.

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Handi-NEWS & NOTES



December 2005

INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS! Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit!

Milwaukee County Senior Centers will host informational sessions by Senior Law to inform Medicare beneficiaries about the new Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit. While this is a voluntary benefit, it is crucial that seniors learn about this program, even if they currently have drug coverage or take no medications, because penalties may occur if individuals enroll after May 15, 2006.



These plans will be operated by private companies who contract with Medicare to provide prescription coverage. Consumers will need to select and enroll in one of the plans available in Wisconsin. Careful selection is important to ensure that seniors obtain the best coverage for their prescription needs. Senior LAW staff will provide practical information about the costs, coverage and benefits of each drug plan, and will be available to answer your questions.

Many Medicare recipients are concerned about being able to afford the monthly premiums and the annual co-payments and deductibles associated with the new drug benefit. Fortunately, there is help available for people with limited resources. Senior LAW staff will address this concern and provide valuable information.

Locations and Dates:

Clinton & Bernice Rose Senior Center –
3045 N Martin Luther King Drive
(414) 263-2255
December 19, 2005 from 10:00 - 11:30 am

McGovern Park Senior Center –
4500 West Custer Drive, Milwaukee
(414) 527-0990
December 19, 2005 from 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Kelly Senior Center –
6100 South Lake Drive, Cudahy
(414) 481-9611
December 15, 2005 from 10:00 - 11:30 am

Wilson Park Senior Center –
2601 West Howard Avenue, Milwaukee
(414) 282-5566
December 14, 2005 from 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Washington Park Senior Center –
4420 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee
(414) 933-2332
December 20, 2005 from 10:30 am - Noon

Additional information is available at
www.seniorlaw.org.

The senior centers listed above are funded by the Milwaukee County Department on Aging and managed by Interfaith Older Adult Programs.

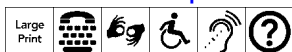
ACCESSIBLE CABINS Buckhorn State Park, Kettle Moraine State Forest (Ottawa Lake), Mirror Lake State Park, & Potawatomi State Park

The State Park system is ready to begin accepting applications for 2006 to the four wheelchair accessible full-size cabins, one each at Buckhorn State Park, Kettle Moraine State Forest at Ottawa Lake, Mirror Lake State Park and Potawatomi State Park.

Applications can be received by calling the park you wish to attend (Buckhorn State Park at 608-565-2789 V, Kettle Moraine State Forest at 262-594-6200 V/TTY; Mirror Lake State Park at 608-254-2333 V/TTY or Potawatomi State Park at 920-746-2890 V or 920-492-5812 TTY), or pick them up at any State park or any Department of Natural Resources District office.

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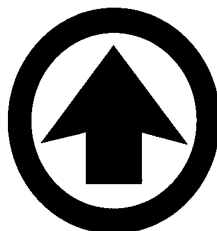


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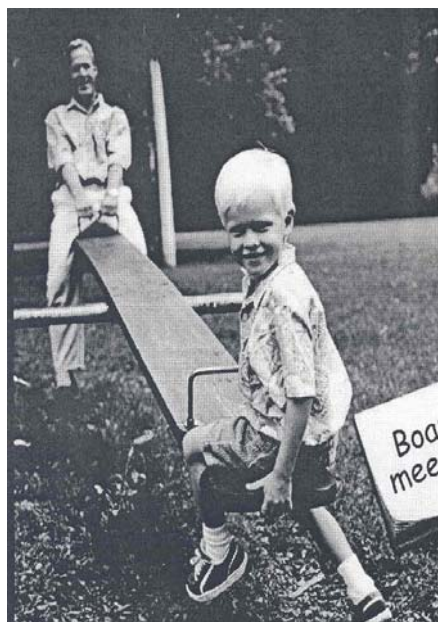


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- In an occupation earmarked for outsourcing?
- Someone who wants to own your own business but doesn't know where to begin?
- Willing to learn about your self employment and business ownership options?

Contact us for a no obligation, no cost consultation.



Milwaukee Office
Sharon Fliess
414-967-1340
TheESource.com/SFliess



Waukesha Office
Kris Maegli
262-784-7570
TheESource.com/KMaegli

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VAN FOR SALE 1997 Chevy full size van, hand controls, 3-way power drivers seat, automatic lift, 60,000 miles, new tires, brakes & starter. Asking \$18,000. Call Kathy @ 414-744-1903 or 414-732-1615 cell	MINI VAN FOR SALE 1995 Dodge Grand Caravan w/ fully automatic, remote control ramp w/ tie downs. Keyless entry. Power tinted windows, locks. Air, power adjustable drivers seat. AM/FM cassette. New tires & more. Well kept. Excellent condition. Asking \$8,500 OBO. Call @ 414-351-9297	VAN FOR SALE 2003 Express LA West Conversion Van w/raised roof. Dark gray metallic w/ medium/dark pewter interior. Braun Millennium Series fully automatic lift w/ 33" wide platform & manual securement system. Approx. 3,000 miles. Vortec 5300 V8 engine. Leather seats, TV w/ VCR & DVD player. Remote keyless entry, alarm system & starter. AM/FM stereo w. cassette & CD. Rear child security locks. Air conditioning, cruise control, power/heated mirrors and much more! Asking \$40,000, negotiable Call Ray @ 847-623-4226 , or Renee @ 847-912-5688
VAN FOR SALE 1993 Dodge Caravan, new tires, chair/scooter lift, hand controls. \$1,750. Call @ 262-797-9624	VAN FOR SALE 1995 Dodge Ram ¾ ton van. Well maintained, 129,000 miles. 1 ½ year old Ricon lift with remote & tie-downs. AC, heat, everything works. 318 V8, heavy duty transmission. Some rust. \$4,900. Call Dave @ 262-784-0861	MINI VAN FOR SALE 1997 Astro Van, 93,000 miles, hand controls, remote controlled ramp and side door, 3 way drivers seat. Asking \$7,500 or best offer. Call Andres after 7pm @ 414-803-2413 414-817-9225
<div><div>WASHINGTON HEIGHTS DENTAL DR JO DENNIS 5919 W VLIET STREET MILWAUKEE WI 53208 TELEPHONE (414) 257-0101</div></div>		
SCOOTER FOR SALE Golden Companion II in good condition. Color is wine (red). The brand new price would be \$3,295. Asking \$1,500 OBO. Call @ 414-304-1134 For address to see scooter.	POWER & MANUAL WHEELCHAIR FOR SALE Hoveround MPV4. Gray w/ right hand controls. Adjustable seat, arm rests & back. Includes battery charger & video tape guide. Asking \$3,000 OBO. Invacare w/ cushions. Asking \$150 OBO. Call @ 414-351-9297	<div><div>Todd Kiefer Operations Manager 1525 N. 4th Street Milwaukee, WI 53212 (5 blocks north of the Bradley Center)  Quality Conversions at Reasonable Prices <u>Mobility Unlimited</u> Hand Controls Adaptive Conversions</div><div>CaraVans, Inc. Custom Van & Truck Accessories and Conversions  264-2000 264-3900</div></div>
EQUIPMENT FOR SALE 1 – Hospital Bed, w/ electric massage. \$350 1 – Bath Lift, water powered from showerhead. \$200 1 – Wheelchair. \$50 Or best offers. Call @ 414-647-2489	POWER WHEELCHAIR FOR SALE Jazzy power wheelchair. Used only 7 times. Was new in '01. Holds up to 300 lbs. Color is blue. Built in charger. Asking \$4,000 (negotiable). Call Betty after 4pm @ 414-543-7922	ELECTRIC VEHICLE LIFT & LIFT CHAIR FOR SALE 5 Yr. Old Bruno electric vehicle lift for scooter or wheelchair. Swing away adapter. Original cost was \$3,000, asking \$500. American lift chair, beige in color. Has new motor. Approximately 5 yrs. old. Asking \$200 Call @ 414-764-5574 or 414-807-6338 cell
<div></div>		

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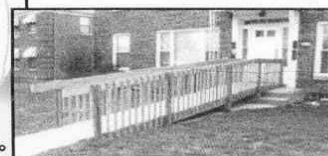
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Wil-O-Way Key Card

2006 Application

The Wil-O-Way Key Card is a product of the Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities and the Wil-O-Way Recreation Program. Membership in the Wil-O-Way Key Card program expands recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities at a reduced or no cost.

*Benefits: * Access to the Milwaukee County ticket distribution program. * Receipt of Handi-NEWS & NOTES hard copy. * Invitation to Milwaukee County recreation and culture special events. * Information about other low or no cost community recreation events. * Access to Wil-O-Way programming (Individual members only!).*

_____ Individual (\$23) _____ Organization (\$115) – Up to 5 Cards - _____ Number Requested

Please Type or Print.

NAME: _____ E-MAIL: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DAY PHONE: _____ EVENING PHONE: _____

DISABILITY: _____

FUNCTIONAL LIMITATIONS (i.e., limited walking, scared of heights, etc.): _____

MOBILITY DEVICES USED: _____ Wheelchair _____ Scooter _____ Walker _____ Cane

_____ Crutches _____ Long Leg Braces _____ Other _____

DOCTOR'S NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

DOCTOR'S ADDRESS: _____

Please make check payable to **Milwaukee County Treasurer.**

Please return this application with proper payment to

Wil-O-Way Key Card
Office for Persons with Disabilities
901 N. 9th Street, Room 307-B
Milwaukee WI 53233



This form is available in alternate formats.



A C C E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 28, 2005

CONTACT: Annie Jurczyk
Associate Managing Director
414-224-1761

THE HEARTWARMING FAMILY EVENT OF THE YEAR!

MILLER BREWING COMPANY PROUDLY PRESENTS
MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER'S PRODUCTION OF

A Christmas Carol

Adapted by Joseph Hanreddy and Edward Morgan
Directed by Judy Berdan

ACCESS PERFORMANCE

Pabst Theater

ASL PERFORMANCE: Thursday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Milwaukee Repertory Theater welcomes Charles Dickens' timeless classic A CHRISTMAS CAROL to the stage at the beautiful, historic Pabst Theater for the 30th consecutive year! Since its debut in 1976, A CHRISTMAS CAROL has dazzled children and grandparents alike with Scrooge's magical transformation from penny-pinching miser to generous uncle and respected friend. With over one million attendees over three decades, A CHRISTMAS CAROL has developed into a Milwaukee family tradition during the holiday season and brings warmth and happiness to audiences of all ages. For the second year A CHRISTMAS CAROL features Lee E. Ernst as Ebenezer Scrooge. Tickets for A CHRISTMAS CAROL can be purchased in person at The Rep Ticket Office at 108 East Wells Street or by phone at 414-224-9490. **Tickets can also be purchased online 24/7 at milwaukeeerep.com.** The Rep . . . See it LIVE!

The Rep has added a special performance of this yuletide favorite that will be interpreted in American Sign Language on **Thursday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m.** When ordering your ticket, please alert the Ticket Office that you would like to sit in the Interpreted section. Maria Merrill and Kris North will interpret the entire production of A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

Tickets for A CHRISTMAS CAROL range in price from \$12.50 to \$65.00. *A Special Children's Rate is available for all Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday performances – for each adult ticket purchased, receive two children's tickets at half-price – valid for children 12 and under.* For more information, or to charge tickets, call 414-224-9490. For Group Sales of 20 or more, call 414-224-9490. Purchase tickets online 24/7 at milwaukeeerep.com.

◆ # # # ◆

Administration (414) 224-1761 Box Office (414) 224-9490 Fax (414) 224-9097

MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER

Joseph Hanreddy
Artistic Director

Patty & Jay Baker Theater Complex 108 East Wells Street Milwaukee WI 53202

Timothy J. Shields
Managing Director

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Any person who needs personal care support needs to have a caregiver attend with them.

Java Journey

Good coffee, good times!

Date: Saturdays, Nov. 5, 19, & Dec. 3

Time: 1-2:30 pm

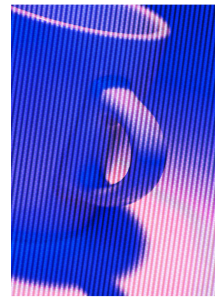
Cost: \$8 each event

Locations:

Nov. 5: Alterra, 1701 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr.

Nov. 19: Lava Java, 1100 S. 1st St.

Dec. 3: Comet Café, 1947 N. Farwell Ave.



Groovin’ with Gibson

Move and groove to the Oldies!

Date: Thursdays, Dec 1, 8, 15, 22

Time: 6-7:30 pm

Cost: \$20 for all four sessions

Location: MCFI Main Campus

2020 W. Wells



Packers Party

Cheer for the green and gold!

Date: Sunday, Dec. 4

Time: 11:45 am – 3 pm

Cost: \$8, including lunch

Location: MCFI Main Campus

2020 W. Wells



Holiday Scrapbooking

Great scrapbooking ideas, snacks and fun!

Date: Wednesdays, Dec. 7 & 14

Time: 6-8 pm

Cost: \$15, including materials

Location: MCFI Main Campus

2020 W. Wells

**Dinner and a Movie Night**

Warm up with chili and a great flick!

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 21

Time: 6-8 pm

Cost: \$10, Reservations required

Location: MCFI Main Campus

2020 W. Wells

**Holiday Celebrations**

Music, art and holiday fun!

Date: Tuesdays, Dec. 6, 13, 20

Time: 6-7 pm

Cost: \$20 for all three sessions

Location: St. Marcus House

101 E North Ave.

